

Flourishing



St. Martin United Church of Christ

Sunday, June 17, 2018 9:30 A.M.

Rev. Terry Minchow-Proffitt, Interim Pastor

Kelly Krener, Pianist

**If able, please stand.*

Centering Words

As you prepare to worship, you're invited to center your heart with this prayer: God, you are the gardener of all creation. You planted this world with the seeds of your love and grow them with your faithfulness. We are your harvest; we find our meaning and sustenance in you. May our minds listen to you calling, may our hearts be attuned to your will, may our feet follow you in the world, through Jesus, the Word become flesh. Amen.

Prelude

***Call to Worship**

The kingdom of God is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of seeds on earth;

It grows up and becomes the greatest of shrubs, and the birds of the air make nests in its shade.

Give thanks to God, whose promised reign is coming.

Thanks be to God!

***Hymn of Adoration** "Open My Eyes, That I May See" #480

Call to Confession

When we gather to worship God, we remember that we are God's people, but we have often preferred our way instead of God's. Trusting God's power to make us new persons in Christ, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Unison Prayer of Confession

Holy God, your Word teaches us that a little faith can produce great work in your kingdom. Yet we are too timid to bear the fruit of your righteousness, for we walk by sight and not by faith. Forgive us Lord; we often do not uphold the poor or the oppressed. We do not advocate for the powerless or the voiceless. We have failed to sacrifice ourselves for the needs of our neighbors. Renew us with the love of Christ so that we live no longer for ourselves, but for Christ who became the seed of your righteousness in us. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

We who walk by faith and not by sight, believe the good news—if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! Praise be to God for the mercy and grace that forgives our sins. Alleluia. **Amen.**

Greeting and Announcements

***Sharing of the Peace**

Children’s Time “Jesus Loves Me”

As the children come forward they are invited to place their offering in the small church at the front of the sanctuary.

Hymn “Come, Ye Thankful People, Come” #721

Prayers and Praises of the People

Pastor: Lord in your mercy,

People: **Hear our prayers.**

The Lord’s Prayer (“Debtors” Version)

Worship the Lord with Tithes and Offerings

*** Offering Response** “Doxology”

***Unison Offertory Prayer**

**Holy God, by your Spirit who breathes within us, strengthen our faith, use our gifts, and work in our lives to bear witness to the resurrection of Christ our Lord, in whose name we pray.
Amen.**

The Written Word

I Samuel 15:34-16:13

Then Samuel went to Ramah; and Saul went up to his house in Gibeah of Saul. Samuel did not see Saul again until the day of his death, but Samuel grieved over Saul. And the Lord was sorry that he had made Saul king over Israel. The Lord said to Samuel, ‘How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.’ Samuel said, ‘How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.’ And the Lord said, ‘Take a heifer with you, and say, “I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.” Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.’ Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, ‘Do you come peaceably?’ He said, ‘Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.’ And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, ‘Surely the Lord’s anointed is now before the Lord.’ But the Lord said to Samuel, ‘Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his

stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.’ Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, ‘Neither has the Lord chosen this one.’ Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, ‘Neither has the Lord chosen this one.’ Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, ‘The Lord has not chosen any of these.’ Samuel said to Jesse, ‘Are all your sons here?’ And he said, ‘There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.’ And Samuel said to Jesse, ‘Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.’ He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, ‘Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.’ Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be God.

Spoken Word

“What the Father Sees”

Silent Reflection

Lord, help me to see your world through the eyes of your Kingdom, that I might live my life like a seed planted deep, abiding in the rich soil of your love. Amen.

***Departing Hymn**

“Hymn of Promise”

#515

***Blessing**

May God grant you your heart’s desire and fulfill all your plans, according to God’s goodwill.

This day and every day. Amen.

***Benediction**

“Threefold Amen”

Postlude

In our Thoughts and Prayers –Homebound: Virginia Ahlvers, Hazel Rose, Joan Roth; Health issues: Mary Ann Potthoff, Judy Cope, Ruth Hart, Dee St. Clair, Michael Patrick, Sondra Thee, Keith York, Stan Dix, Avery.

LEADERS TODAY

Ushers: Jim Bauer

Reader: Don Self

Attendance for June 10: 61

Greeter: Don Self

THIS WEEK: June 17– June 23

| | | |
|--------|----------|----------------------------------|
| Today | 9:30AM | Worship & Children’s Church |
| | 10:45 AM | Animate Faith 7-week Adult class |
| Monday | 9:00 AM | Churchline Articles Due |
| Sunday | 8:30 AM | Fellowship Hour |
| | 9:30AM | Worship & Children’s Church |

SANCTUARY FLOWERS: Happy Father’s Day.

BULLETINS: Welcome summer from Shirley Miller.

WELCOME to Kelly Krener, our new pianist. Thank you for helping us out.

ANIMATE FAITH: A 7-week adult class begins today in the Fellowship Hall.

FOR THE MONTHS OF MAY, JUNE, AND JULY we will replace “Bring A Meal” with “Summer Breakfast and Lunch Club For Kids.” A list of suggested breakfast and lunch items is in the May Churchline.

PASTOR CARLTON NORTON is celebrating his 60th year of ordination. There will be no party but an acknowledgement would be appreciated.

VBS COMING SOON: VBS is July 16-19 starting at 6:30. This year’s theme is “Abundance Orchard”, where faith grows and hungry people are fed. Please invite your friends, neighbors, and relatives.

NURSERY: Nursery is now available for children to go to immediately following children’s time.

DONATION: You can donate to the church on our website <http://stmartinucc-hr.com>. Click on “Members” to find the donation page and other resources.

SCHNUCK’S SCRIPTS: Cards are available on the table in the narthex. St. Martin receives 1-3% profit from this fundraising effort.

SHOP N’ SAVE: Scripts are available from Ginger. St. Martin receives 5% profit from this fundraising effort.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Bette Ford (6/20)

Connect with St. Martin’s Website: www.stmartinucc-hr.com. Churchline and Bulletins are available for viewing. If you have a question or suggestion for Council, please leave a note in the suggestion box located in the narthex.

Father's Day

We talk about seeds a lot in the church. Faith and Mustard seeds. Scattering seeds as a parable about the kingdom. There is the harvest of the righteous. Agricultural metaphors and images jump across the pages of Bible pointing to a land and a time when the rhythms of life revolved around harvests and planting. Flourishing was as visible as green shoots and wind blowing through a wheat field. The natural world fed people. Food was not presented in a box with plastic wrapping or in a can but right outside your back door, under your feet growing by your own hand. Rural congregations get to see their food growing every spring. City congregants must travel or wait for the weekend farmer's market to taste and see the freshness that nature offers.

But around the country, in many cities our UCC churches are cultivating a love of creation and a recognition of the gift and labor that food represents by developing a part of their property as a community garden. The Kimball Avenue United Church of Christ is in the middle of Chicago and it has a plot of land on a busy street corner which is now dubbed "The Oasis." Rows of tended vegetables, raised beds, honey bees, paths and a labyrinth are the result of cultivated partnerships with the community, local businesses and an afterschool program. Since they began the garden in 2013 more than 200 high schoolers have participated in maintaining the garden. The garden is open to everyone. What a way to love creation and your neighbor and children!

Many miles from Chicago, in Arvada, Colorado the Common Earth Community Garden began its garden cultivation in 2016 as a partnership between the First United (UCC) church of Arvada and Denver Urban Gardens. The mission statement of the garden says:

Common Earth Community Garden is established to grow and distribute vegetables, provide a source of wholesome food to local food banks, provide nutritional and cultural education for youth, a place of fellowship for multigenerational families, and outreach to our diverse neighbors on this shared common earth

Besides garden plots, the space will include a gazebo, picnic facilities, a meditation bench, and beehives. Perhaps an inclusive way to express our three loves is by gardening.

It certainly is a way to cultivate your church's neighborhood in more ways than one.

